

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS PESTICIDE EXAM SCHEDULE

UMASS Eastern Extension Center—240 Beaver St., Waltham

MARCH 1. Deadline for submitting application is **FEBRUARY 22.**

MARCH 8. Deadline for submitting application is **MARCH 1.**

QUESTIONS CALL—617-626-1785.

PRESIDENT BUSH EARMARKS MORE MONEY FOR FOOD SECURITY

By Larry Waterfield

The Bush administration has sent Congress a wartime budget that is heavy on food security and homeland defense, a little lighter in other areas.

At the U.S. Department of Agriculture, overall spending and discretionary spending will be down, but anything even vaguely connected to security will be up. In fact, the USDA's budget has a new category—"protection of agriculture and the food supply"—funded at \$2.3 billion, including more than \$1 billion for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which is getting \$200 million more to monitor imports and people coming into the U.S. The money funds 3,500 quarantine inspectors.

The overall USDA budget for 2003 is estimated at \$74.4 billion, down from 2002's \$76.5 billion. But within those numbers are a lot of changes. Discretionary spending is down \$241 million, while nutrition programs shoot up to a record level of \$41 billion for food stamps, school lunch and others, such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, or WIC.

The discretionary budget includes all the programs that are not mandated by law, which encompasses most programs affecting the produce industry. Discretionary spending--\$20 billion—now accounts for only 28% of the USDA budget.

The budget makes room for an estimated \$73 billion in farm bill spending over 10 years, even though Congress has yet to pass a bill.

"This budget supports strong farm programs, helps protect the food supply and helps low-income Americans in need of assistance," said Ann Veneman, secretary of agriculture.

She added, "This budget builds on our efforts to protect agriculture and the food supply from intentional and unintentional risks."

She noted that the current budget proposal adds \$146 million for food security, which comes on top of a \$328 million supplement provided for in the 2002 Defense Appropriations Act. This money beefs up border inspections and domestic food security.

The USDA's budget will pay for a full-time staff of 110,000 people.

(Article from "THE PACKER" Feb. 11, 2002)

AG PROTECTIONS SHAPING UP

By Brian Sparks

The agriculture industry's response to the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 has been rapid. United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association chairman Fred Heptinstall called for the formation of a Food Security Task Force, which would bring together representatives from all lines of the food chain, from production and harvesting to distribution and trade.

According to United president Tom Stenzel, the Task Force will address several issues:

- Protecting production areas;
 - Safeguarding food processing and storage facilities;
 - Enacting laws to protect produce that is imported or exported; and
 - Creating new protections and labor laws for produce employees.
- Here are some steps you can take to keep your orchard safe:
- Carefully review requests for information about your business;
 - Establish specific check-in procedures for visitors;

- Make sure all visitors are escorted by an employee at all times;
 - Enact basic security measures, such as locks and alarms; and
 - Develop a security plan with the help of local safety departments.
- (Article from “AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER”, January 2002)

STARK IS BACK

After a few months of being in limbo, Stark Bros. Wholesale is back and under the independent ownership of Cameron Brown and Tim Abair. Wholesale sales manager Anna Flory says the nursery’s offices are operational, although there’s still some work to be done in getting the company fully up and running again.
(Article from “AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER”, December 2001)

APPLE SHIPMENT TRACKING

Source: USDA

Amounts are shown in units of 10,000 pounds

Season Begins	01/27/02-02/02/02	01/20/02-01/26/02	01/821/01-02/03/01	Total this season 02/02/02	Total last season 02/03/01
SEPTEMBER	10,302	11,951	12,454	194,891	235,276

MID-WEEK F.O.B. PRICES AT MASSACHUSETTS COUNTRY SHIPPING POINT

Prices and grades received by telephone, February 20, 2002

NO CHANGE

Controlled Atmosphere

VARIETY	GRADE	SIZE	PRICE
McINTOSH	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	80s	19.00
		96s	18.50
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/2” min	12.50
	Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy	8-5s 2-1/2” min	14.00
CORTLAND	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	72s & 80s	18.00
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/2” min	12.50
	Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy	8-5s 2-1/2” min	14.00
EMPIRE	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	80s	18.00
		96s	17.50
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/2” min	11.50
	Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy	8-5s 2-1/2” min	13.00
RED DELICIOUS	Cartons Tray Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	80s & 88s	13.50
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/2” min	11.00
	Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy	8-5s 2-1/2” min	13.00

FEDERAL MARKET NEWS SERVICE, EVERETT, MASS.

FEBRUARY 19, 2002

NEW ENGLAND

McINTOSH	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy (Controlled atmosphere)	80s	23.00-24.00
		100s	20.00
	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. No. 1 (Controlled atmosphere)	80s	12.00
		100s, 120s, 140s	9.00- 9.50

	Cartons Film Bags U.S. No. 1 (Controlled atmosphere)	12-3s 2-3/8" min	9.50
CORTLAND	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy (Controlled atmosphere)	80s	18.00
		96s	17.00
	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. No. 1 (Controlled atmosphere)	80s & 96s	12.00
SHIPPED IN			
McINTOSH	NY Hudson Valley Ctns CelPk U.S.ExFcy (Controlled atmosphere)	80s & 100s	19.00
	Lake Champlain Cartons CelPk Combination U.S. ExFcy-U.S. Fcy	80s	23.00-24.00
		100s	20.00
	NY Hudson Valley Ctns CelPk U.S. No. 1 (Controlled atmosphere)	120s & 140s	9.50
	Lake Champlain Ctns FlmBg U.S. Fcy	12-3s 2-1/2" up	11.00
EMPIRE	PA Cartons Tray Pack U.S. ExFcy	88s	17.00
	NY Hudson Valley Ctns FlmBg U.S. ExFcy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	12.00
RED DELICIOUS	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy (Controlled atmosphere)	64s	17.00-19.00 fine appear. 20.00-22.00
		72s & 80s	17.00-19.00 fine appear. 20.00-21.00
		88s	17.00-19.00 fine appear. 19.50-21.00
		100s	16.00-20.00 mostly 17.00-18.00 fine appear. 20.00-21.00
		125s	16.00-19.00 mostly 16.00-18.00
	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	72s & 80s	21.00
		88s	16.00-18.00 one brand 21.00
		100s	16.00
		125s	15.00-16.00
	NY Hudson Valley Ctns FlmBgs U.S. ExFcy	12-3s 2-3/8" min	12.00
GOLDEN DELICIOUS	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy (Controlled atmosphere)	72s	25.00-27.00 mostly 26.00
		80s	23.00-26.50 mostly 24.00
		88s	22.00-26.50 mostly 24.00
		100s	21.00-24.00 mostly 22.00-23.00
		113s	18.00-19.00
		125s	18.00
	WA Cartons Cell Pack WAExFcy (Controlled atmosphere)	80s	26.00-27.00
		96s	24.00-24.50
	NY Hudson Valley Ctns FlmBg U.S. ExFcy	12-3s 2-3/8" min	12.00

ROYAL GALA	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy (Controlled atmosphere)	64s	One brand 26.00
		72s	28.00
		80s	26.50-28.00
		88s	26.00-28.00 mostly 26.00
RED ROME	NY Hudson Valley Ctn TryPk U.S. ExFcy	72s, 80s, 88s	15.00
	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	80s	18.00-20.00
ROME	NY Hudson Valley Ctns FlmBgs U.S. ExFcy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	12.00
FUJI	PA Cartons Tray Pack U.S. ExFcy	80s & 88s	24.00
	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	56s	25.00
		64s	24.00-25.00
		72s	24.00
		80s	23.00-23.50
		88s	22.00-23.50
		100s	22.00-23.00 mostly 22.00
BRAEBURN	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	80s	23.00-24.00
		88s	22.00-23.50
		100s	21.00-22.00
CAMEO	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy (Controlled atmosphere)	80s	23.50-24.50
PINK LADY	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy (Controlled atmosphere)	88s	23.00
		113s & 125s	15.00
		138s	12.00
GRANNY SMITH	WA Cartons Film Bags WAExFcy (Controlled atmosphere)	72s	28.00
		80s	26.50-28.00
		88s	23.50
		100s	19.00
		125s	17.00
	WA Cartons Film Bags WAExFcy (Controlled atmosphere)	12-3s 2-1/2" min	16.50-18.00 mostly 18.00
CIDER	New England Preserved Cartons	4-1 gallon bottles	9.00- 9.40 mostly 9.00
		9 ½-gallon bottles	10.00 best 11.25
Howard Vinton, Editor			